REMARKS

This Amendment and the following remarks are intended to fully respond to the Office Action mailed April 9, 2007. In that Office Action, claims 1-38 were examined and all claims were rejected. More specifically, claims 1-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. ¶ 102(b) as being anticipated by Abela; Publication No. US 2003/0177356 A1 ("Abela").

Reconsideration of these rejections, as they might apply to the original and amended claims in view of these remarks, is respectfully requested.

In this Response, claims 1, 3, 10, 12, 28 and 34 have been amended; claims 2, 11, and 33 have been canceled; no new claims have been added. Therefore, claims 1, 3-10, 12-32 and 34-38 remain present for examination.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. ¶ 102(b)

Claims 1-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. ¶ 102(b) as being anticipated by Abela. Applicants respectfully disagree. Abela discloses a method and system for providing a trusted universal identification over a global communication network. Abela uses Universal Identification (uID) servers in each country to connect official databases (e.g., government databases) to the Internet. *See Abela paras. 0065-0072.* This permits users to check identification claims of other users through a query of the official information kept by each user's home country. *See Abela para. 0056.* Each user is provided a uID that begins with the user's country code. *See Abela para. 0062.* Another user can use the uID to authenticate any user who is requesting a service. *See Abela para. 0056.*

For example, a first user attempting to access a web site may provide his uID to the web site. *See Abela para. 0093.* The web site may then determine the first user's home country by examining the country code in the uID. *See Abela para. 0094.* The web site then contacts the uID server in the first user's home country and queries the uID server database to obtain any necessary information to authenticate the first user. *Id.* The uID database contains records with personal information about users such as the first user. *See Abela para. 0074.* If the web site

11

receives the necessary information from the uID server to authenticate the first user, the first user is granted access to the web site. *See Abela para. 0103.*

Abela, therefore, discloses a central repository in each country that can be queried by users to perform authentications of users who are residents in those countries. By contrast, the present claims provide considerably more flexibility by creating and using principal objects and resource objects, which include identity claims and identity references, respectively. The principal objects and resource objects of the amended claims may be used by computer processes to advantageously associate resources and principals. For example, Claim 1, as amended, requires:

> a plurality of identity references, wherein each of the plurality of identity references comprise at least part of one of the resource objects within the computing environment, and wherein each of the plurality of identity references identify its associated resource object as being associated with a specific principal based on a link assertion within the identity reference to a specific identity claim.
>
> *Claim 1 (as amended).*

The Examiner cites paragraph 0074 of Abela as disclosing identity references. *See Office Action, para. 6* (discussing now-canceled Claim 2). Paragraph 0074 of Abela, however, discusses only uID records in the uID database, which the Examiner had asserts meets the claim 1 limitation for "principal objects." *See Office Action, para. 5.* Identity references are references to identity claims that <u>link</u> resource objects to at least one <u>specific identity claim</u> in associated principal objects. *See, e.g., specification at p. 6.* Identity references, as claimed, "comprise at least part of the resource objects." *See specification at p. 7.*

The Examiner has cited no specific element disclosed within Abela that meets this limitation. Indeed, Abela has no need for resource objects that comprise identity references or that link to specific identity claims. Rather, a user (such as a web site) that desires information about another user, simply authenticates itself to the appropriate uID server and requests the information it desires from the uID database. By contrast, in the system of Claim 1, the computer process may receive a resource object, process the included identity reference to link the resource to a particular principal object to the resource object. Separate permissions settings

to access information within the uID database of Abela are not the same as identity references that comprise at least part of a resource object. By including identity references within resource objects and identity claims within principal objects, the system of claim 1 permits identification without the need for the traditional, centralized database and permissions settings discussed in Abela. Indeed, there is no discussion in Abela of objects of any kind, let alone the particular objects and interactions of objects set forth in claim 1.

Claim 10 similarly includes:

> a plurality of identity references, wherein each of the plurality of identity references comprise at least part of one of the resource objects within the computing environment, and wherein each of the plurality of identity references identify its associated resource object as being associated with a specific principal based on a link assertion within the identity reference to a specific identity claim.

See Claim 10.

Claim 10 is, therefore, also distinguishable from Abela for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Abela also fails to meet all of the limitations of claim 21. For example, claim 21 requires:

> a time reference assertion specifying a time frame in which the principal is uniquely identified by the value assertion within the particular identification scheme.
> *See Claim 21.*

The Examiner asserts that the claimed "time reference assertion" is met in Abela by paragraph 0091. *See Office Action, paragraph 25.* Applicants respectfully disagree. Paragraph 0091 of Abela simply has nothing to do with a time reference assertion – it discusses only the difference in Abela between "users" and "uID users." *See Abela, para. 0091.* Similarly, the Examiner cites to paragraphs 0056 and 0082 of Abela with respect to Claims 6, 7, 17, and 23, which also addresses a time reference assertion. *See*

Office Action, paragraph 27. Paragraphs 0056 and 0082 of Abela also have nothing to do with a time reference assertion. The only reference Applicants could find in Abela to time-sensitive information relates to how long authentication requests to a uID server will last (*See Abela, paragraph 0105*), but that is not what is claimed. Rather, the claimed time reference assertion declares how long the principal "is uniquely identified by the value assertion within the particular identification scheme." In fact, there is no need in Abela for the claimed time reference assertion because Abela specifically teaches that "[i]t is very important for the data in the uID database to be synchronized with its official source. Each uID database has to be kept regularly updated." *See Abela, para. 0055.* Because Abela chooses to use a synchronized master database of information that can be queried at any time rather than the principal objects and resource objects of the present claims, there is no need for a time assertion of how long the value assertion validly identifies a principal.

Abela also fails to disclose all of the elements of amended claim 28. Claim 28 has been amended to include the limitations of now-canceled claim 33, and includes:

> creating a phantom principal object in response to receiving a resource object having a identity reference comprising a declaration that does not link the resource object to the principal object, the declaration comprising an identification string uniquely identifying a second principal within the particular identification scheme, and wherein the phantom principal object is created to include the identification string assigned to the second principal; and
> saving the phantom principal object to a data store containing the principal object corresponding to the first principal.

See claim 1.

The Examiner cites paragraph 0076 of Abela with respect to these limitations. *See Office Action, para. 37.* Applicants respectfully disagree. Paragraph 0076 of Abela discloses only the structure and contents of the uID records in the uID database. It contains no discussion whatsoever of creating a

phantom principal object, let alone creating a phantom principal object in response to receiving a resource object having an identity reference comprising a declaration that does not link the resource object to the principal object. In fact, Abela teaches away from creation of a new entry into the uID database in response to receiving a request about a user that the database cannot identify. In Abela, the uID server simply returns an error message – new users are presumably only created only in response to updates from the official data source of the country the uID server represents. *See Abela at para. 94* ("Invalid Enquired uID Identifier").

The remaining claims 3-9, 12-20, 22-27, 29-32, and 34-38 all depend on at least one of claims 1, 10, 21, or 28 and are allowable for at least the same reasons as stated above.

Conclusion

In light of the above remarks and amendments, it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should any additional issues need to be resolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attempt to resolve those issues.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.
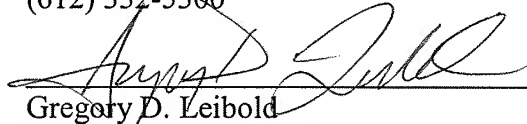
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayment with respect to this patent application to deposit account number 13-2725. Please

consider this a Petition for Extension of Time for a sufficient number of months to enter these papers or any future reply, if appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

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16